

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 for informalities. The claims have been amended to obviate the objection. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-7, 10-12, 13, 14, 16-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,181,893 to Collard et al. (hereinafter "Collard") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,720 to Bleizeffer et al. (hereinafter "Bleizeffer"); and rejects claims 3 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Collard in view of Bleizeffer and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,543,857 to Wehmeyer. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that Collard in view of Bleizeffer teaches all the features recited in independent claims. However, the applied references do not teach or suggest a method for sequentially performing settings for plural items in a predetermined order including at least "when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instruction, a setting menu display data of a second item that is next to the first item in the predetermined order is displayed, and the first item is displayed as an item which has been already set," as recited in claim 1.

Collard, in col. 7, lines 20-50 and Fig. 4, teaches the layout of the display screen 60 after the function of the apparatus has been chosen. Additionally, Collard teaches once a function, for example, printer has been selected, displaying the features associated with the printing function in a different frame than the selected feature printer. However, Collard does not teach

or suggest displaying the features associated with the copier function, which is next to the printer function, in the predetermined order of Collard. Therefore, Collard does not teach or suggest "when setting of a first item which is being set is performed based on the inputted instruction, a setting menu display data of a second item that is next to the first item in the predetermined order is displayed, and the first item is displayed as an item which has been already set," as recited in claim 1.

The device claims, apparatus claims, method claims of claims 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 are similarly rejected and therefore allowable based on the above rationale.

Bleizeffer and Wehmeyer fail to teach or suggest the above features, and therefore, fail to make up for the deficiency of Collard.

For at least the above reasons, the combination of Collard, Bleizeffer and Wehmeyer cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all the features recited in at least independent claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22. Further, claims 3-6, 9-12, 15, 17, 19 and 21 would also not have been suggested by the applied references for at least the respective dependency of these claims on allowable independent claims, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the subject matter of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

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